



The Old Stone Wall

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State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources
Division of Historical Resources

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Commissioner's Corner: A New Life for the Old Man of the Mountain

After the fall of the Old Man of the Mountain on May 3, 2003, Governor Craig Benson assigned a task force led by former Governor Steve Merrill to find an appropriate way to revitalize this New Hampshire landmark. Among its recommendations were:

- An expanded museum and exhibits at the Franconia Notch State Park;
- Viewfinders that recreate the image from roadside parking areas;
- Profile Awards, to be given to individuals, communities, and organizations that have preserved their own special piece of New Hampshire's heritage or treasures;
- A traveling exhibit to teach about the geology and significance of the Old Man;
- The creation of an education program; and
- an Artist Pathway around Profile Lake.

Governor Benson has accepted the recommendations of the task force and announced a project team, the Old Man of the Mountain Revitalization Design Task Force, which I have been asked to lead. During the first phase of the project, the viewing devices will be installed and the Annual Profile Awards will be designed. The Artist Pathway and the curriculum program will be developed in the second phase, and

the final phase will include the expanded museum, the large-scale replica of the profile and portable exhibits.

New Hampshire artists are invited to submit designs for the Annual Profile Awards. The three awards will be given annually on May 3, the anniversary of New Hampshire's loss of the Old Man of the Mountain. Visit www.nh.gov/nharts for information about the Profile Awards.

The Old Man of the Mountain Revitalization Fund Inc. has been established and is developing a fundraising plan. I am very excited about this process and the potential for us to turn the loss of an important New Hampshire icon into a way to celebrate what is so special about our state and our people.

Van McLeod
Commissioner



*Old Man of the Mountain, April 30, 2003.
(Photograph by Linda Ray Wilson)*

Good Grant News!

Certified Local Governments will soon be receiving grant packages for the 2004 grant cycle. Grants are available for historic surveys, local inventories, National Register nominations, building rehabilitation and other activities aimed at preserving a community's historical resources. If your community is a Certified Local Government, you should be prepared to submit your application early this spring.

Applications for the Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) 2004-2005 grant program will be due April 30, 2004, and new guidelines will be posted on the NHDHR web site soon. These grants are available for the preservation and rehabilitation of historical resources that are **publicly** owned.

For more information, call the NH Division of Historical Resources at 603-271-3483.

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<http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr>

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DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

Van McLeod, Commissioner

The DHR is a state agency, supported by the State of New Hampshire, by the federal Historic Preservation Fund (through a matching grant administered by the National Park Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior), and by donated funds and services. In addition to its state functions, the DHR is also responsible for administering the federal preservation program in New Hampshire.

Recent National Register Listings



North Conway 5 & 10 Cent Store, Conway NH. Listed January 5, 2004. (Photograph by P.B. Alcott)

The North Conway 5 & 10 Cent Store is a rare survivor of the 5 & 10 Cent Store retail mode. The "Dime Store," as it was also called, was the invention of Frank Winfield Woolworth who opened the first 5 & 10 in 1880. Although F.W. Woolworth eventually became the largest chain of 5 & 10 Cent Stores, there were competing chains as well as countless independent stores across America. The North Conway 5 & 10 Cent Store was established in 1939. Generations of customers have enjoyed the history, ambiance, and merchandise available here.

The store is architecturally significant as an example of the Boom Town Storefront. It is North Conway's only unaltered expression of this false-front arrangement common to small frame commercial buildings dating from the late 19th century.



Marion Nichols Summer Home, Hollis NH. Listed December 10, 2003. (Photograph by Lisa B. Mausolf)

The Marion Nichols Summer Home (1935) is a well-preserved summer home complex dating from the early 20th century. Three hours from Boston by train, Hollis enjoyed popularity as a summer home destination from the late 1880s to the early 1940s. Visitors were accommodated in a number of ways – farms and homes taking in boarders, boarding houses, and inns.

At a time when vacant or abandoned farms were being bought up and used as summer residences, this house was an architect designed summer home commissioned expressly for Mrs. Nichols. As the years passed, however, Mrs. Nichols found it easier to stay with her sisters in Hollis Village and used the house less and less, finally conveying it to her children in 1949. In the 1960s the Beaver Brook Association was formed by family members and Hollis residents to utilize the property and promote the conservation of Hollis's natural beauty.



Meadow Bridge, Shelburne NH. Listed December 10, 2003. (Photograph by James L. Garvin)

The Meadow Bridge (1897) spanning the Androscoggin River in west central Shelburne was erected by the Groton Bridge and Manufacturing Company of Groton, New York. This engineering landmark is a nationally significant example of the multiple-span pin-connected through Pratt truss. Once a common metal bridge type, it is now extremely rare.

Meadow Bridge is also historically important in the tourism industry of late-19th century Shelburne. Its construction significantly improved access to the area's resorts. It also has associations with the Good Roads movement, an initiative to improve the nation's roads and bridges. The League of American Wheelmen, founded in 1880, was a strong proponent of greater investment in highway transportation. This group of bicyclists published a national magazine and also lobbied successfully to improve facilities across the country. The construction of Meadow Bridge was one of the first examples of this national effort at work in New Hampshire's North Country.

Christine E. Fonda
National Register & Tax Incentives
Coordinator

New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) is pleased to announce that eight more properties have been listed in the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. Each is pictured here. For more information on the benefits of listing a property on the State Register and the application process, please visit our web site, <http://www.nh.gov/nhdhr>, or contact the office at either PO Box 2043, Concord, NH 03302 or 603-271-3483.

The DHR is also sponsoring a design contest for a State Register plaque for listed properties. Check our web site for all the details and our next newsletter for the results.



The Hildreth-Jones Tavern, Amherst: a center for county business, political discourse, news, entertainment and commerce in the 18th and early 19th centuries, a time when Amherst was the county seat and among the largest towns in New Hampshire.



The Moore-Scott House, Derry: built in the early 18th century by one of the town's founders on an early road between Derry and Windham and farmed for centuries by the Moore and Scott families.



Epsom Town Hall, Epsom: a quiet and pristine reminder of 19th century civic life along the well-traveled First New Hampshire Turnpike.



The Haley Homestead, Lee: owned by the Haley family for more than 150 years, daily life at this Georgian style home was well-documented in the 19th century journals of family member S. Olevia Haley.



Sanborn Mills, Loudon: an intact and well-preserved saw and grist mill complex that served 19th century Loudon Center farmers. These local mills were once common in the state; now only a handful survive.



The Maynard-Gates House, Marlborough: built by yeoman Jedediah Maynard in the 1760s, this house is believed to be the earliest structure remaining in Marlborough.



The Carroll County Courthouse, Ossipee: a local landmark, a fine example of the Neo-Classical Revival style, and the seat of Carroll County government since its construction in 1916.



Clinton Grove Academy, Weare: generations of Weare schoolchildren have passed through this local landmark, built in 1874 to replace the school where abolitionist Moses Cartland first served as headmaster.

Elizabeth Muzzey
State Survey Coordinator

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Curator's Report

Several Civil War projects are underway. First, the New Hampshire National Guard plans to assemble and restore to working order four twelve-pounder "Napoleon" cannon, made in 1863 and 1864. All four saw military service with the state's First Light Battery. Members of the General Court's Heritage Collections Committee are helping the New Hampshire National Guard with the restoration of the cannon and fundraising. National Park Service and West Point Museum personnel have provided copies of drawings from ordnance manuals of the period to aid in the work. The New Hampshire National Guard intends to install some or all of the reassembled and restored cannon in its planned museum at Concord.

The General Court's Civil War Memorials Commission is charged with erecting a monument to New Hampshire men and women at the Battle of Antietam, Maryland, September 17, 1862. The Commission has narrowed a competition for the sculptor to three finalists, all of whom are nationally known sculptors of Civil War memorials.

Late in 2003 a Civil War silk regimental flag carried by Company H of the First New Hampshire Volunteers was mounted and is now on view with the Civil War portraits on the State House first floor. The flag was given to the state by the family of Charles W. Stevens in 1989. A knapsack and canteen belonging to a Hopkinton, New Hampshire veteran of the War of 1812 are displayed with our War of 1812 portraits, also on the State House first floor. These latter items were purchased for the state at auction by the General Court's Joint Legislative Historical Committee in January, 2003.

Russell Bastedo
State Curator

Shelburne Bridge Progress

Efforts to preserve Shelburne's Meadow Bridge continue in the field and on paper. As reported in the Summer 2003 *Old Stone Wall*, Meadow Bridge is a rare, multi-span metal truss bridge that was built over the Androscoggin River in 1897 (see *related story*, page two). One of the four piers that support the structure is being undermined by riverbed scour, causing two of the four pin-connected trusses to lean and twist, and potentially endangering both the historic structure and a 1984 bypass bridge just downstream.

Following strong expressions of public sentiment for preserving the bridge, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (DOT) developed plans to prevent the loss of the two endangered trusses. In November, 2003, DOT awarded a contract to Chesterfield Associates of New York to remove the two sections for storage on the shores of the river until rehabilitation plans can be developed.

Meanwhile, in July, 2003, a planning committee was formed after two public meetings were held in Shelburne. In response to an offer made by DOT, the committee is working to meet the challenge of raising 20% of the estimated \$1.4 million cost of permanently rehabilitating the bridge.

In November, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation awarded the committee \$5,000 to develop plans to save the bridge and provide public benefit from the preserved structure. The committee contracted with the North Country Council, the regional planning commission, to draft the plan.

Following public comment, the plan will be revised and used as a vehicle for raising the 20% non-DOT share of preservation costs and for developing recreational and educational facilities around the preserved structure and its site.

James L. Garvin
State Architectural Historian

The View from the Solarium

After I gave my report at the January meeting of the State Historical Resources Council, announcing that in the last four months we had lost over \$70,000 in federal funds, had taken a 10% cut in our state budget, had lost 1/4 of our staff, were living under a hiring freeze, and had postponed the barn grant program, one member asked, "do you have any good news?"

Well, of course there is good news, and lots of it. You are reading in this newsletter and elsewhere of the progress being made in Shelburne to save and restore one of the state's most historic bridges. The Music Hall in Portsmouth is receiving a \$400,000 Save America's Treasures grant. The historic coastal defense structures at Fort Point are not only being saved, but the overgrowth at the site has been cleared for a public view not seen in decades. A bill in the legislature proposes to remove the footnote that prohibits LCHIP funds from being used for historic structures; and a new, permanent funding mechanism for LCHIP is being considered.

The most important good news is that communities all over this state are creating historic districts and heritage commissions, putting buildings and districts on the State and National Register, fighting to save and rehabilitate historic homes and commercial structures. The reservoir of support for historic preservation deepens with every passing day. Our challenge is to focus that support on the leadership of our communities, our state and our nation.

James McConaha
Director, NH Division of Historical Resources
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